

THE ISRAEL PHOENIX ASSURANCE CO. LTD.

Marginal Column

By ZEEV LAQUEUR

THE last time I saw Paris — Messrs. Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II have reported for some time — her heat was warm and dry. Well, it is now four degrees centigrade and, to be quite frank, not very dry either. Outwardly, perhaps, it has changed, though there are less dilapidated taxis than before, food is plentiful and there is very little unemployment. Such a change in the weather (Did they really know how to make better films in the twenties?) The only major innovation in Parisian geography appears to be the partial transfer of the Existentialist headquarters from St. Germain des Pres to the Palais Royal. And yet even if the heat is hard not to be influenced unduly by the cold and the rain and the general mood accompanying it, one has to admit that the atmosphere prevailing is not exactly one of buoyant optimism.

THE French crisis, when all is said and done, is basically domestic. Many sections of French industry and agriculture cannot compete with the Germans or the British because the French prices are 15-20% higher than theirs. Hence, the opposition by influential vested interests to European economic co-operation and the ever higher wall of protective customs. At the same time, it appears that even a modest amount of rationalization in industry and the elimination of some of the trade (hundreds of thousands of shops have no economic raison d'être whatsoever) would cause a fall in prices by 1952.

French products competitive again. A typical example of the success of the introduction of more rationalized methods are the coal mines in the North of the country which have doubled labour productivity per hour and can now afford to pay 75,000-80,000 francs or about three times as much as the average wage in industry.

DURING the coming two weeks the major French parties — the Socialists, Communists and the Catholic M.R.P., are to hold their annual convention. The main reason to assume that the Communist Congress will hear much self-criticism. The recent by-elections in Brest, Le Havre and other cities previously mentioned in this column, have brought a decline in the Party and the general strike of April, which was the result of a failure in recent French history, though the Christian trade unions collaborated with the C.G.T. on that occasion, on May Day, 8,000 strikers (out of a membership of more than three million) went to the Party demonstration, and in the context of the confusion prevailing in the rest of the parties the present decline in the French Communist Party does not appear so very serious.

THE main question in France, however, remains whether any left of the coalition will emerge from the present hopeful trend in recent by-elections, and willing to give the country a left of the coalition which reforms which are so long overdue, and which, for a time at least, would make the government highly popular. The absence of such initiative is perhaps the most disconcerting sign in the present situation. Can it be that a country which has produced the 19th century in Europe and the world is prevented from finding its way in the 20th century — just because of its success in the past — as a correspondent in the Catholic "Express" argued the other day? Is it true that the spirit of France was really broken in 1939-40 and has not entirely recovered since then? Or is it not rather a comparatively small group of persons who may have exhausted their energy, and who, as a whole have remained unaffected by these developments? Paris, May 20.

Turkey Bound, Iraq Free — 'Guardian'

MANCHESTER, Saturday (Reuters). — The Liberal "Manchester Guardian" said yesterday that Turkey might well ask why Iraq should receive American military aid unconditionally, while Turkey had to bid itself with so many undertakings.

Among other difficulties, the Turks look with disquiet on the proposal by the Pakistanis to take part in an Arab conference in Jerusalem on what to do about Israel. They would prefer that Pakistan should close her eyes to Israel.

Petrol, Kerosene Prices Up Today, Subsidy Dropped

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — Fuel prices will go up throughout the country tomorrow. This follows the abolition of the Government subsidy on various types of fuel, the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. P. Sapir, informed the press yesterday. Hitherto, the population had purchased fuel at a IL1.200 to a dollar rate; as from tomorrow morning, the rate will be IL1.800 to a dollar.

The new rates in Haifa are as follows: Petrol — 22 pruta increase per litre, or 11.5% to 214 pruta a litre; kerosene — 28 pruta increase per 15 litres, or 22.5% to IL1.155; solar — IL1.145 increase per 1,000 litres; or 29.6% to IL1.62; light fuel oil — IL1.780 increase per 1,000 litres or 22.5% to IL3.500; heavy fuel oil — IL2.500 increase per ton, or 24.5% to IL3,500.

The increases are the same all over the country but in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, prices will be slightly higher due to transport costs. A litre of petrol here will be 219 pruta; 15 litres — IL1.250; 1,000 litres of solar — IL1.65,000; and 1,000 litres of light fuel oil — IL4,600. Petrol and kerosene rates in the capital will be the same as in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Sapir hoped that the c-o-i index would not rise, but estimated that the maximum increase would be only 1.5 to 1.7 points.

By this measure, which was approved last week by the Economic Ministers' Committee, the Government expects to earn about IL1.5m. and to narrow the deficit between the amount set aside for subsidies in this year's budget (IL2.5m.) and the real amount being paid now. Also, Mr. Sapir explained, the measure is in line with the budgetary statement by the Minister of Finance that the c-o-i index is due to rise this year by 22 to 24 points.

Mr. Sapir said that the Government would deprecate upon any inflationary pressure from whatever source. It would deny the right of the bus companies to raise fares, would resist wage increases and would negotiate with the Electric Corporation for rates to remain constant (the P.E.C. is the major consumer of heavy fuel oil). It is the Government's estimate that only if its efforts to keep prices at their present level fall, partially or completely, would the c-o-i index rise up to 1.7 points.

He stated that Israel was still one of the cheapest countries in the world for fuel. Petrol, for example, was only a dollar rate (IL1.1) to a dollar rate (IL2.05) in Italy, 12.4 in England, and 18 in France. The same applied to other types of fuel, for the reason that the Government imposed no duty on fuels, except on petrol.

Mr. Sapir also recalled that the Government still paid large subsidies on food (IL40m.) and on agricultural products. It should be borne in mind, he remarked, that the IL1.1 to a dollar rate for the population for its bread was not real and was actually covered by grants from abroad. If a loaf of bread were to be sold in two colours, one for the half paid for by the local wage earner and the other paid for from abroad, many a citizen would not be able to afford to buy the loaf. Mr. Sapir was certain.

He added that the Government, which was spending \$36m. a year for fuel, paid too much for its imports, as the British oil companies sold their fuel at the Venezuelan rate rather than the cheaper Mediterranean rate. Negotiations were in progress to correct this state of affairs.

Australian Gov't Wins MELBOURNE, Saturday (Reuters).

The Australian Liberal-Country Party coalition won today's Australian general elections, but with a reduced majority. A slight swing to the left gave the opposition Labour Party at least two seats previously held by the Government coalition.

A switch of eight seats would have toppled the Government from the Liberal Premier, Mr. R. G. Menzies. The election produced no upsets among party leaders.

ENGLISH GIRL BEATS FIVE-MINUTE MILE BIRMINGHAM, Saturday (Reuters).

— Miss Diane Leather, of Birmingham, became the first woman to beat the five-minute mile in less than five minutes when she clocked four minutes 59.8 secs. here today.

It was an Englishman, Roger Bannister, who beat the four-minute mile two weeks ago.

Jordan Quits UN Council Debate

NEW YORK, Saturday (Reuters). — Jordan announced here last night that it was withdrawing from the U.N. Security Council debate on tense Israel-Jordan relations. The text of a letter to this effect to the President of the Council was released as U.N. headquarters.

It was signed by Abdul Munim Rifai, Jordan Ambassador to the U.S. and said: "I have the honour to inform you that upon instructions from my Government, I am not empowered to represent my Government before the Council or to take part in its present discussions."

They shouted "Resign, murderer," as the Resident-General, pale but smiling, walked through the airport gates towards his car. Others shook their fists at the French Defence Minister, Mr. Rene Pleven, who accompanied him from Paris.

The widely jostling crowd expressed their anger at the Resident-General for failing to protect them against the Palestinian (native nationalist outlaws) who murdered five French farmers last Thursday.

Premier — "I died a would-be assassin fired two shots at Tunisian Premier Mohammed M'Zali today, but failed to hit him, police reported. The assassin succeeded in escaping."

A French military tribunal today sentenced five Tunisians to prison terms up to five years for supplying arms and ammunition to the Algerian rebels.

Tunisian residents expressed fear yesterday that this country would become another Kenya with terrorists like Mau Mau, behind them and a French army of occupation in the country. They are stated to number about 400, but are being reinforced as they recruit French deserters discontented with French rule.

France to Call Up 80,000 to Army PARIS, Saturday (Reuters). — The French Cabinet yesterday announced drastic moves to meet the crisis in Indo-China, including immediate call-up of men due to be conscripted next October, and creation of a "general reserve" of several active divisions, which a spokesman said might consist of conscripts, volunteers or long-term regulars.

Government circles said that the new call-up will first affect 40,000 men born in September, October and November, 1933. These, it was understood, would be called up for six months in June instead of in October.

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New Currency Transfer Rules

New regulations governing the right of residents of Israel to transfer funds abroad were announced on Friday by the Controller of Foreign Currency. These regulations are aimed at curbing the flow of funds out of the country and to repurchase this foreign currency at the same price when they are again ready to import raw materials and have been issued an import licence, provided that not more than six months have elapsed since the issue of the licence.

With regard to "clearing countries," the rate the exporter will receive for his foreign currency will depend on the "disagio rate" fixed for the country in which the currency was earned. There are three categories: A. France, Holland, Ireland, Italy and Persia — 100% disagio rate (i.e., exporter receives IL1.70 per dollar from the Treasury); B. Denmark and Norway — 95% disagio rate (exporter receives IL1.71 per dollar); C. Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Turkey and Yugoslavia — 90% disagio rate (exporter receives IL1.62 rate).

Foreign currency earned in Category A countries may also be repurchased for use in Category B or C countries, and that earned in Category B may also be repurchased for use in Category C countries.

4 More Arab States Seek U.S. Arms

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Lebanon and Syria have agreed in principle to accept American arms, following Iraq's example, and are now negotiating for the first time a unified stand on this matter, the Co-ordinator of "Palestine" Old City daily, reported yesterday.

NEADS stated that the Lebanese Socialist Member of Parliament, Mr. Emil Bustani, in a letter to his Government, had urged reconsideration of the entire Lebanese foreign policy. He charged the Government with pretending to adhere to a policy of neutrality "which was false, anyhow."

He said, "We need the West and should reach an accord regarding arms supplies, because the safety of our country and protection of our borders against any possible Israeli attack depend on Western guarantees that the Arab League collective security pact."

N.Y. London Times On Rumanian Jewry

LONDON, Saturday (INA). — The first British daily newspaper to make any mention of the Tel Aviv hunger protest against the Rumanian Government's imprisonment of Zionists, was "The Times" which this morning reported its conclusion.

A "New York Times" editorial said today that the free world must unite to seek the release of the imprisoned Rumanian Zionists as part of an effort to support all friends of freedom.

The "Hutchinson Commission," whose members are the Jordan and U.N. delegates and the UN Commander E. Hutchinson, condemned Israel "in the strongest terms" on Friday for what it termed a flagrant violation of the provisions of the 1949 armistice agreement called upon her to take the necessary steps to prevent aggression against Jordan in future.

Thirty armed Israelis, according to the Commission, opened an automatic fire and wounded and killed four Jordanian farmers. The Commission is infuriated at this, since the description of the alleged incident has it that two farmers were killed.

The attack was alleged to have been made on Wednesday last to make any mention of the Tel Aviv hunger protest against the Rumanian Government's imprisonment of Zionists, was "The Times" which this morning reported its conclusion.

Colonists Warn Tunisia Becoming 'Second Kenya'

TUNIS, Saturday. — Several hundred French colonists today mobbed the French Resident-General, M. Pierre Voizard, when he arrived at the airport here after a short conference in Paris on the deteriorating situation in the French North African Protectorate.

They shouted "Resign, murderer," as the Resident-General, pale but smiling, walked through the airport gates towards his car. Others shook their fists at the French Defence Minister, Mr. Rene Pleven, who accompanied him from Paris.

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Indo China Chiefs Called To Geneva For Truce Talks

GENEVA, Saturday. — The nine nations trying to end the Indo-China war today summoned representatives of the opposing armies to report here next week to negotiate details of a cease-fire. This is the first major decision of the five-year-old Far East conference.

The decision, which had been expected, was taken at a four-hour private session, the 11th of the series, under the chairmanship of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. V. M. Molotov.

The senior military representatives are expected to start their talks here next Thursday with discussions on Vietnam, largest of the three states of Indo-China and the country's main battlefield.

A communiqué issued tonight said: "The nine delegations met in restricted session on May 29 to continue their discussions on restoring peace in Indo-China."

The meeting adopted the following proposals submitted by the U.K. delegation: "In order to facilitate the early and sincere cessation of hostilities, it is proposed that: 1. Representatives of the two Commands should meet immediately in Geneva, and contacts should also be established on the spot. 2. They should study the disposition of forces to be made upon the cessation of hostilities, beginning with the question of regrouping areas in Vietnam. 3. They should report their findings and recommendations to the conference as soon as possible."

The next meeting on this question will be held on May 31. Mr. Walter Bedell Smith, head of the U.S. delegation, approved the British plan today with two reservations, conference sources said.

These were that Laos and Cambodia must be treated on an entirely separate basis from Vietnam and that the only solution for the two smaller states was the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces.

While the full conference will proceed with the questions of Laos and Cambodia, supervision of the armistice and other related problems. The conference today agreed to a surprise proposal by Mr. Molotov, rejecting the partition of Vietnam in any final peace treaty.

Non-Communist delegations at the Geneva conference yesterday strongly supported the Korean proposals for Korean reunification in speeches making clear that the Communists must make concessions if the 19th talks are to continue. Delegates from the U.S., Colombia, Turkey, Thailand, Australia and Greece also upheld the earlier Communist objections — the right of the U.N. to supervise any all-Korean elections. (Reuters, UP)

Canada Not to Join OTTAWA, Saturday (Reuters).

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Lester Pearson, said on Thursday that Canada would make no military commitment in Indo-China. But he said that his country would support the United Nations.

Mr. Pearson said the Canadian Government agreed with the principle of a South-East Asian pact, but far as accepting special political and defence commitments were concerned, there was a limit to what Canada could do. The population and resources could do.

Asian Socialists Urge Atomic Ban, Continued Non-Identification

KALAW, BURMA, Saturday (Reuters). — The Bureau of the Asian Socialist Conference ended its third meeting here yesterday with resolutions on Indo-China, effective international control of atomic energy to be used for peaceful purposes only, and the Korean problem.

It held over until the next meeting in November any real concrete decision on regional pacts, but reiterated their dependence on neither the Western nor Soviet blocs. The Indian Socialist Party repeated the suggestion of a third bloc of nations aligned with neither.

With the exception of the Indians, delegates were in agreement with the Bureau Acting Foreign Minister, U Kyaw Nyein, who said that Soviet imperialism was now "more ruthless, more systematic and more blatantly justified" than the old colonialism.

The resolution on Indo-China called for a truce under the supervision of an international commission acceptable to both sides under the auspices of the U.N.; fair and free elections after the creation of a favourable atmosphere by the withdrawal of foreign troops; reduction of forces on both sides; and disarmament of guerrillas.

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## Today's Post Bag

## THE WEATHER

	A	B	C	D
Tel Aviv	24	26	28	24
Jerusalem	22	24	26	22
Haifa	20	22	24	20
Beirut	18	20	22	18
Lydda	20	22	24	20
Haifa Port	20	22	24	20
Tel Aviv Port	20	22	24	20
Lydda Airport	20	22	24	20
Jerusalem	20	22	24	20
Haifa	20	22	24	20

FORECAST: Fair, variable clouds.

\* Humidity at 3 p.m. at this time.

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## Fire Destroys Fruit Trees

Several hundred dunams of fruit trees were destroyed in a fire near Beit Natif village in the Jerusalem Corridor on Thursday. The damage is estimated at several thousand pounds. Twelve dunams of wheat were burned in another fire in the same area, and a big field-fire occurred near the Haruv moshava. They were put out by the inhabitants of the village with the assistance of the police.

A fire broke out on Thursday in the grove of the late Dr. M. Tova B. de K. in the Jerusalem Corridor. The damage to the grove, which is situated between Rehovot and Ness Ziona, is estimated at IL15,000. The police are investigating.

Damage amounting to IL2,000 was caused when a hut in Akir was razed on Thursday. The cause of the fire is unknown. Serious damage resulted when a field of barley and a combine were destroyed by a fire which broke out near Kfar Masabim on Friday.

The Ramle police put out a blaze near Mishmar Ayalon, yesterday, but it is reported to be raging still in the Jordan area across the border.

Two other conflagrations were reported yesterday from Gan Yavneh and Kibbutz Hafets Haim. (Itim)

At Moshav Gan Haim on Wednesday night, marauders disturbed after having removed a cow and a mule.

On Thursday night, marauders dismantled a water pump in an orange grove belonging to Kibbutz Bial, and made off with the most valuable parts.

In a few months the first heavy orders from Germany will have arrived, with the floating dry dock due in the autumn, and the railway equipment immediately afterwards.

Goods due here immediately include 5,000 tons of rails, Diesel engines for the Kaiser Franz works, fishing nets, large quantities of thread for the textile industry and hides.

Also expected shortly are film material for the production of films here, as well as the newest types of X-ray and short wave medical units.

In general, there were no incidents between the Israeli and Arab delegations, and the Israeli delegation tried to make friends at social functions held during the conference.

The Telecommunications Centre for the Middle East area is still located in Paris. Representatives of the Arab and Israeli delegations are expected to arrive in the near future.

The group was patrolling the section between the Gaza Strip and the Egyptian border, and a man was slightly wounded in the exchange of fire which ensued.

Infiltrators from the Gaza Strip tried to steal irrigation pipes from Mithamim and Saad in the Western Negev on Wednesday night. Local guards opened fire and drove them away.

Egypt, meanwhile, claimed that Israeli troops had entered Egyptian territory in the Gaza Strip and had withdrawn after a clash with Egyptian forces.

Infiltrators broke into the stable of kibbutz Ha-Hanna on the Eastern shore of the Kinneret last night and stole two horses valued at IL1,500. The tracks of two men led to el-Hamma where the Syrian and Jordan borders meet.

At about 12:30 p.m. yesterday, Benjamin Rubinstein, 28, stepped into the doctor's X-ray chamber, holding a small newspaper, wrapped parcel in his right hand. He approached the doctor, who was alone, tore off the paper, revealing a revolver, and said, "Now let us see your courage."

Dr. Itzkovitz said he shouted for help and threw objects from his desk at Rubinstein. The revolver fell from Rubinstein's hand and the doctor grabbed him and attempted to hold him. Rubinstein broke loose, retrieved the revolver and fled.

A crowd, which had gathered outside the clinic, pursued the attacker, and the police, who had been alerted in the meantime, arrested him in nearby Rehovot Khuri.

Dr. Itzkovitz said here tonight that Rubinstein had been a patient of his and had received X-ray treatment for corns on his feet. Later, he had suffered an infection on his foot and claimed that he had been caused by the treatment. He was operated on and recovered. He then reportedly attempted to obtain sums of money from Dr. Itzkovitz, and threatened to kill him unless he paid them, the doctor claimed. Dr. Itzkovitz is Chairman of the Medical Association's Haifa Branch and is a well known X-ray expert.

Here is the letter received from the Director of the District Health Department:

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## Snake Bite Kills Woman

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — Mrs. Tova B. de K., a 55-year-old woman from Tel Aviv, died on Thursday after being bitten by a snake while working in her daughter's garden in Gan Yavneh.

She was immediately transferred to Tel Hashomer hospital. Despite the doctors' efforts to save her life, she died several hours afterwards.

Four poisonous snakes, 40 to 60 centimetres long, were killed by workmen on Thursday near the Moshav cemetery in Ramat Hasharon. The snakes were found in a pit beneath a heap of stones.

The condition of the two men bitten by snakes in the Ramat Hasharon area on May 26 continues to be grave. The two men are under treatment at the Asaf Harofeh Hospital in Sarafed.

A resident of the Baka's quarter of Jerusalem, Nissim Levi, was bitten by a snake in his garden on Thursday. He was rushed to the Bikur Holim Hospital and after immediate treatment was reported out of danger. (Itim)

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The Minister of Finance, Mr. Levi Eshkol, told a Mafpat-sponsored conference of representatives of moshavim from the South, the Sharon and the Samaria area at Kfar Hayarok, near Herzliya, that 40,000 families must be settled on the land to support a population of two millions. He called on the moshavim to switch to agriculture, stating that there was room for 2,500 families immediately.

Mr. Eshkol added that there were now 60,000 families on the land, including the moshavim, and remarked that whereas relief jobs were a waste of money, anything done on the land was an asset to the country.

Mr. Eshkol said that the Government was planning to conduct surprise visits to Government offices to examine whether they are functioning properly. The State Comptroller, Dr. M. Moshe, announced here yesterday at the weekly luncheon of the Industrial and Commercial Club.

He said that these officials would be part of the group of 70 who are now conducting the "courtesy campaign" in the 80 government offices which deal with the public daily.

The State Comptroller's Office has suggested that the Government form a committee of civil servants to centralise all suggestions within the government administration for the improvement of its services.

Dr. Moshe pointed out that it was not enough for the public to lodge complaints; constructive suggestions should also be put forward. He proposed the formation of committees by economic groups and associations for the drawing-up of such suggestions, a practice frequent in the U.S. and Britain.

He added that his Office had done much for better administration, and cited to its credit the introduction of tenders and the centralization of import licences. He remarked that his Office had no say in the implementation of its proposals, and had no influence on the Government's economic policy.

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — Government in Israel should be based on the two-party system, with personal and constituency voting. Mr. Eliezer Livneh, M.K., said last night at a meeting sponsored by the Chaim Weizmann Lodge of Bnei Eritz in Israel at the Ohel Shem hall.

The speaker stressed the necessity for an opposition to the governing party, with the task of pointing out mistakes and capable of taking over the government when elected to power.

Explaining the importance of the personal system of representation, Mr. Livneh stated that Members of the Knesset at present were elected on a National List, and did not know their voters, were not responsible to them and presented no reports to them. When elected personally, the Member is "afraid" of his voters and reports to them on his activities.

Speaking on "Where is Israel's Spirit?" Mr. Shmuel Zakai, president of the Weizmann Lodge, expressed support for the Russian Jewish leaders here who had held a five-day fast to call attention to the plight of Jewish leaders persecuted in Rumania.

The Bnei Eritz president in Israel, District Court Judge Shalom Kanan, recalled that the Order had been established in the U.S. 110 years ago and has existed in Israel for 70 years.

A two-and-a-half-year old boy from the Gali moshava, near Herzliya, Baruch Hek, who was visiting his uncle in the Moshav Haim moshava in Jerusalem, has been reported missing since 8:30 on Friday morning, when he was playing near his uncle's home. The police believe the child to be in Jordan.

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The flow of German goods this month and the expected arrivals next month are the biggest in volume since the beginning of the implementation of the Reparations Agreement, the Shilumim Corporation announced here yesterday.

In a few months the first heavy orders from Germany will have arrived, with the floating dry dock due in the autumn, and the railway equipment immediately afterwards.

Goods due here immediately include 5,000 tons of rails, Diesel engines for the Kaiser Franz works, fishing nets, large quantities of thread for the textile industry and hides.

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## No Coups Allowed

Army coups were strictly banned throughout Syria by a law passed by the Syrian Parliament on Friday night. NEABS reported yesterday.

Under the new law, civilians carrying out orders of army personnel who have usurped power by a military coup will henceforth be regarded as traitors and be tried accordingly, the broadcast said.

Progress Marks M.E. Aviation Parley

LYDDA AIRPORT, Saturday. — Problems of aviation-security and telecommunications were settled to Israel's advantage at a regional meeting of Middle East aviation countries which has just closed in Rhodes. The resolutions taken will be published by the International Civil Aviation Organisation on June 15.

Lydda Airport and Director of the Israel delegation to the talks, said here yesterday upon his arrival in the Civil Aviation Department's private plane.

Of the 15 nations taking part in the regional conference, four were Arab states. The Israel delegation complained of the activities of the Pakistan authorities in refusing to permit an Israeli plane to operate between Lydda and Karachi, and the Pakistani delegation refused to give a clear reply.

A member of the Givat Rahel settlement was seriously wounded at 10 p.m. on Friday in an exchange of fire between a group of Givat Rahel settlers and an Egyptian unit, the Army spokesman announced yesterday.

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**THE** decision of the United States Government to supply arms to Iraq appears to be approaching the stage of implementation.

**A DANGEROUS** following the visit of the American military mission to that country.

The Egyptian newspaper, "Al-Ahram," indicates that it is proposed to equip four armoured brigades with heavy guns, tanks and appropriate aircraft, and that the proximity of Iraq to Azerbaijan has been taken into consideration in making these calculations.

As was foreseen by competent observers when the intention to grant United States arms to Iraq was first mooted, the other Arab states have now indicated that they, too, would like to be included in the hand-out, and are concerting among themselves an agreement under which such arms would be acceptable.

The candidates in this connection are said to be Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Lebanon and Syria. The desire of Egypt to receive the equipment accords strangely with the violent opposition which that country extended to the acceptance by Iraq of the offer.

It is difficult to ascertain what has now made Egypt change her mind. No doubt in common with the other newly suppliant and pliant Arab states, she thought that if Iraq is being made strong, then she, too, must abandon her anti-Western prejudices and also accept arms. One would have to be very naive indeed not to perceive that similar motives of jealousy and fear of their colleagues in the Arab League have not prompted the other states, who are now ready to enjoy the bounty of the State Department.

If this be so, it is indeed an interesting advance commentary on the futility of the whole sorry policy to which America now appears to be committed. Does she really believe that she will be able to weld these jealous, intense rivals into a bloc which will serve any useful function in the creation of a Mediterranean and Middle East defence zone? Past experience is clearly an indication that these states know no loyalty towards their benefactors. There is an utterly opportunistic policy and that policy, in its turn, is distorted by internal hatreds and dissensions.

Israel can only look upon this latest turn of events with grave anxiety. It is not difficult to foresee at least one of the conditions which these Arab states will insist that they be placed at least on a level with Iraq and be put in a position where they can announce that, like her, they are receiving their new weapons without any strings attached. Egypt, the object of Iraq's challenge for supremacy in the Arab League, will certainly not consent to be treated in any other way. An interesting sidelight on this is shown by Turkey's present irritation with the United States at the fact that she, as a solid ally of the West, had to enter into so many undertakings, while Iraq now receives carte blanche.

Against this predicated step-up of the Middle East arms race, Israel is asked to rely upon the Tripartite Agreement of 1939. But this serious disturbance of the balance of power between Israel and her Arab neighbours by the most powerful signatory of that agreement, can hardly increase confidence either in the value of the agreement as a deterrent to aggression, or in its speed and effective invocation should such aggression take place.

Should new tendencies fructify into any tangible results, they will only aggravate the dangers in the Middle East and increase the tensions there to breaking point. This, in itself, is hardly a situation which is calculated to strengthen the area against external aggression where there is only one effective defence: the improvement of the economic and social conditions in the area.

At present, there is a grave danger that any upheaval in the Middle East may well result in a mass rising of whole populations against the pseudo-democratic governments which are becoming increasingly identified in the people's eyes, with the West. In such a rising, the role played by American arms may well prove the decisive and catastrophic use that similar aid was put to in China only a few years ago.

## The Week in the Knesset

### Interpreting Parliamentary Immunity

By GERDA LUFT

PARLIAMENTARY immunity serves two purposes. It should give the House security to carry on its work, and it should shield the individual member from prosecution for action carried out in the course of his Parliamentary duties.

The Knesset as an institution has supreme interest in upholding Parliamentary immunity. It protects freedom of speech of Members. It makes certain that the executive will not use the administrative machinery to bring pressure on members and will be unable to change the composition of the House by prosecuting representatives for acts done in their Parliamentary capacity. Without Parliamentary immunity, the Knesset could never be sure that its members being able to attend sessions.

For the individual Member, too, Parliamentary immunity is one of the main conditions of his ability to do his Parliamentary work without interference. His political freedom is anchored to a large extent in the institution of immunity. The Knesset must therefore be very careful if it is touched.

But although legally speaking Knesset Members may not be prosecuted for any offence, in practice, immunity should only be extended to political actions.

It does not mean that Knesset Members are allowed to be less careful than the ordinary citizen in abiding by the law. It is taken for granted that a citizen called upon to represent a section of the community in Parliament will not steal or cheat. It is taken for granted, too, that if he transgresses traffic laws, he will be fined like any ordinary person.

The very notion of law and of immunity is based on the distinction between political and civil offences.

**Legal Procedure** Since Knesset Members in Israel may not be prosecuted even when the House adjourns, the Attorney General can move against a Knesset Member for a civil offence only when Parliament is dissolved for elections. Therefore, the authorities had no possibility of opening proceedings against a Knesset Member who was responsible for a heavy traffic accident some time ago, in which his passengers and others were severely hurt without his asking the Knesset to waive his immunity.

The case was settled without consulting the committee and this is a pity, as in such an issue, devoid of political implications, the House would have been able to consider the problem on its merits without being afraid of party repercussions. The Lorincz case, on the contrary, was dealt with in an atmosphere beggared both by party interests and by the melancholy knowledge that offences against currency regulations are looked upon leniently not only by the citizens but often also by the authorities.

Perhaps the most astonishing feature of the proceedings in the Knesset committee was its appeal to the District Attorney to stay the proceedings and to Mr. Lorincz to waive his immunity. Had the District Attorney changed his mind, the Knesset would still have had to decide whether the situation called for waiving Mr. Lorincz's immunity, and a sad end to do so on Mr. Lorincz's part would not have cleared the air. It

is the duty and the business of the Knesset and not of the individual member to decide on this point.

Mr. Cohen's claim that he is unable to change his mind as he must follow the law, is unfounded. The District Attorney has the power to open and to stay proceedings, and moreover, it is common knowledge that he has used his power to waive immunity when he thought it expedient.

**Open Question** The Lorincz case is closed for the time being; the problem remains open. It is not a problem of Parliamentary immunity only. It may well be that the immunity law passed in 1951 was too sweeping and there are members who are in favour of changing it. But the main issue disclosed by the case is one of public morals. It is bad enough that the action of the authorities aroused speculations whether they were prompted by political considerations. It is even worse that the public gets the impression that public representatives might go scot-free in cases where the ordinary citizen is not.

These impressions do not date from the Lorincz case. They are the fruit of developments during the last few years. Perhaps the law has declined, partly because it was not sufficiently enforced and partly because some laws on the statute books were unenforceable. Perhaps the Knesset and the Government have learned a lesson from last week's unpleasant manoeuvres.

The immunity problem, which also came up in the Rosenberg case, occupied the Knesset behind the scenes to such an extent that proceedings in the hall—except during the declarations on Rumanian Jewry—did not attract much interest.

The bill authorising the Government to control elections of public bodies passed its last

reading, thus enabling the authorities to supervise elections for the Zionist Congress. This bill had been in committee for years and has now been passed without much alteration.

The proposal of the Minister of Interior to make Government institutions pay taxes in towns where many new immigrants dwell, went through its first reading, which threw some light on the plight of towns like Tiberias and Jerusalem. Both have taken in a large number of immigrants and both until now have failed to give them sufficient productive employment. The provision to make Government institutions pay taxes in these places is doubtless just, but it will be of little help as long as productivity does not increase.

A problem of major importance was suggested by the bill regulating electricians' work. The fact that it was the Minister of Development who introduced the bill gave the impression that we were going to get a proposal for a law regulating the development of the power in fact the bill has very little to do with development.

Several members asked why the training of electricians is not the concern of the Ministry of Labour which is responsible for training in general. It appears that in practice as well as in legal planning the dividing line between the Ministries is blurred and this must make for over-lapping.

Even more doubtful is the provision in the bill that details of execution are to be at the discretion of the Minister. Mr. Harari of the Progressives spoke very sharply on this point, and proceeded to read the bill, which would rob itself of its major rights and duties: by giving such sweeping powers to Ministries, it introduces a form of legislation which is spurious.

## Personality Portrait

### 'Cowboy Bud' Plans Beef Herds

IF THE Gaulois steak becomes a familiar item on Israeli menus, you can thank Albin Molonon, known as Bud, for his habit of seeing Israelis where they are severely hurt without his asking the Knesset to waive his immunity.

He is a tall, dark, and handsome man, with a friendly smile. He is a native of the United States, and has been in Israel for several years. He is a ranchman, and has a large herd of cattle. He is also a hunter, and has a keen interest in the natural history of the country.

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to, Beduin Sheikhs in Jordan before coming to Israel. The Arab farmers have let their herds go to ruin—and have grazed their pastures where they are severely hurt without his asking the Knesset to waive his immunity.

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## Reuben's Letters

SHILUM PURCHASING

Editor: The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — In a recent speech, Dr. Shinnar, head of the Reparations Purchasing Commission, admitted that of all international trade delegations, our mission to Germany is the only one executing purchases abroad without agents. I should like to

contact Dr. Shinnar's fears that Israel agents abroad might create scandals, as well as his feeling that Israel manufacturers would not care to go abroad to effect the purchase of equipment for a mere £2,000 or so. No foreign country has complained of scandals caused by Israel agents — and no Israel manufacturer would consent to leave his enterprise for a number of weeks to make purchases unless he had important reasons for doing so. And in no free country would he be compelled to explain the reasons for his trip. On the other hand, I should like to ask whether the numerous trips of so many members of the Shilum Company to and from West Germany are really in the interests of the State.

Dr. Shinnar further asserted at his press conference that the Shilum company spent only about one per cent of the entire import value of Reparations on various expenses. This meant over a million dollars in one year. Had agents had their share in the Reparations, they would have earned, and in turn brought into Israel, commissions totalling some four million dollars.

Yours etc.

F. WEINSTEIN-GALT  
Tel Aviv, May 19.

**PEN FRIENDS**  
A Bronstein, P.O.B. 8538, Jaffa, wants to correspond with pen friends from all English-speaking countries who are interested in Israel stamps. He has many rare sets and specimens.

beef heads are being raised, "and I happen to see cows drinking" out the drainage ditch. Just happened to joke, cows like clean water same as you and me. And would you believe, they fixed up a concrete trough without another word. I'm gonna be more careful what I say in the future."

Operation Cowboy derived impetus from Bud's annoyance at wasted range-land. It didn't make sense: meat rationing in a country with some of the richest grass in the world. The recently-founded ranch on the northern shores of the Kinneret encompasses about 25,000 dunams of lush grazing. White with tall oats and gold with bracken and dill. There will be a wire fence around, and impeding the Cassidy family to stop the herd from wandering. Down at the lake (200 metres below sea level) there are 400 millimetres of rainfall. A few kilometres north, on the heights, it exceeds 500 millimetres, meaning an extra month of green fodder.

"In Washington," Bud commented, "the notion got around we were starting a 'dude' ranch—Yemenites roping steers and firing off six-shooters. Sorry to disappoint the Cassidy family; this is a plain, honest, cattle-rainin' outfit with no trimmings." We are looking forward to the first steak.

G.L.C.

**ADRIATICA**

S.S. MESSAPIA - arriving Haifa at 6 a.m. on June 1, leaving Haifa at 8 p.m. for LARNACA, PIREAUS, BARI, VENICE, TRIESTE.

M.V. P. GRIMANI - arriving Haifa at 7 a.m. on June 7, leaving Haifa at 8 p.m. for LARNACA, PIREAUS, NAPLES, GENOA.

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## Varied Conditions in S.E. Asia

### Make SEATO Impractical

By ROBERT S. ELEGANT

SINGAPORE. (NANA).—A SOUTH-EAST Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) modelled on NATO is desirable, but impossible at the present time. That is the judgment of informed opinion, both official and unofficial, in Singapore and Bangkok. Expert observers argue that because of widely divergent political and economic conditions, South-East Asian nations cannot find that base of common interest upon which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is built.

"Only a purely military alliance is possible in South-East Asia," one high-ranking diplomat declared, "and such an alliance will require tremendous material and moral support from outside — much more support than in Europe."

In the Asian view, large commitments of foreign troops, wholly supplied from abroad, could make for effective resistance to Communist military aggression. But there is simply no basis for a real alliance first obtaining the support of America's allies. President Eisenhower gave unqualified endorsement to the plan for a 10-nation South-East Asia Treaty Organisation that would block the expansion of Communism.

Not by Asians But officials here point to what they consider a major flaw in the projected alliance. It is the very flaw which has marked other Western tactics in Asia since the Communist menace became clear. In brief, they say, the plan is for Asia but not by Asia, and Asian nations will not be inclined to rally their strength in an organization conceived and directed by London and Washington, rather than by Bangkok, Jakarta and Bangkok.

The nations of South-East Asia are still preoccupied with internal problems born of recent independence. They are neither sufficiently convinced of the Communist menace, nor well enough administered to unite for common defense.

Secretary of State Dulles has been criticised in the U.S. for launching his "united action" policy for South-East Asia at the Geneva Conference without first obtaining the support of America's allies. President Eisenhower gave unqualified endorsement to the plan for a 10-nation South-East Asia Treaty Organisation that would block the expansion of Communism.

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